

MELANIE COULTER, B.A., LL.B., J.D.

4201 S. 31st St., #625
Arlington, VA 22206
Fax: (703) 933-2977

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Michael Friedman, M.D., Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Dr.
Rockville, MD 20857

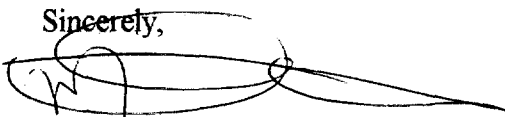
Dear Dr. Friedman,

I am writing to ask you to act on the petition before your agency which is intended to assist "downer" agricultural animals. The petition docket number is 98P-0151/CP1 and it asks that the FDA and USDA classify meat from downers as adulterated.

It is my understanding that currently, if an animal collapses during transport, the owners will take all measures possible to get the animal to the slaughter-house alive, even if it is very sick or in extreme agony. The reason is because the owner can make more money selling a live animal, no matter what condition it is in, than a dead animal. If your agency classifies meat from downer animals as adulterated then there will no longer be any incentive to prolong the suffering of these animals. Therefore, I urge you to take action on this petition and prevent further needless animal suffering.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Melanie Coulter

98P-0151

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M. Coulter
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